



## ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT COORDINATION ANNUAL REPORT

LSRCP Contract #14-48-0001-93500, Mod. 93-01  
October 11, 1992 to September 30, 1993

By  
Sharon W. Kiefer  
Fishery Staff Biologist

IDFG 94-14  
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### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan (LSRCP) is to compensate for anadromous fish losses caused by construction and operation of the four lower Snake River hydroelectric dams: Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental, Little Goose, and Lower Granite. These dams were built between 1962 and 1975. In 1976, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was authorized to administer the operation and maintenance funding for the LSRCP hatchery program, the primary compensation tool (Cannamela and Kruse-Malle 1993).

Snake River Sockeye were listed as endangered in December, 1991 and spring/summer and fall chinook were listed as threatened in May, 1992 pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). The listings required that LSRCP-funded hatchery programs and evaluation studies not jeopardize the existence or recovery of natural populations of Snake River salmon. The purpose of ESA coordination was to evaluate and coordinate all actions of Idaho's LSRCP programs to ensure that their effects on listed salmon were neutral, minimal (i.e. would not jeopardize), or enhanced the continued existence of listed salmon. The ESA coordinator was responsible for meeting the obligations and legal requirements of the ESA for Idaho Fish and Game's (IDFG) LSRCP Hatchery Operations and Maintenance Program (O&M), Hatchery Evaluation Study (HES), Harvest Monitoring Project (HMP), and Coded Wire Tag Laboratory Program. Additionally, actions of all Idaho programs, including those outside the authority of LSRCP, were to be integrated with LSRCP actions to ensure overall adverse effects on listed species were avoided, and obligations of the ESA were met.

### OBJECTIVES

1. Assess LSRCP hatchery and evaluation actions to determine potential effects on listed species.
2. Represent IDFG during formal consultation between NMFS and the USFWS.
3. Analyze, update, modify, and submit new Section 10 scientific and enhancement direct take permits as needed.
4. Coordinate and integrate Idaho's anadromous fish management and research with the Section 7 LSRCP biological assessment and subsequent biological opinion and the Section 10 scientific/enhancement permits.

5. Complete other duties as assigned so that LSRCP and IDFG programs and professional efficiency are enhanced.

## **METHODS**

I relied on previous biological assessments developed by the USFWS, published literature, unpublished IDFG data, and the judgement of agency biologists to develop biological assessments for the LSRCP Section 7 consultation and for Section 10 permit applications. The staffs of HES and hatchery O&M programs provided substantial technical assistance and information for Section 7 and Section 10 documents. I incorporated pertinent findings from Federal Register notices and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) memoranda into assessments and permit applications. I also developed contacts with NMFS personnel in the Regional offices in Portland and Seattle, the Office of Protected Resources in Maryland, and the Coastal Zone and Estuarine Studies Division in Seattle, to facilitate my coordination duties.

## **RESULTS**

Major actions are described by objective. Specific monthly activities were previously documented in monthly reports submitted to LSRCP staff.

### **Objective 1**

From October, 1992 through April, 1993, tasks 1.1 through 1.9 were all completed (Appendix A). During October through January, 1993, seven biological assessments for LSRCP program in the Salmon and Clearwater basins were completed for Section 7 consultation. During development of assessments, I coordinated with IDFG staff to develop actions to reduce adverse impacts on listed species. These included reduction of steelhead smolt releases in the Salmon River primary chinook production areas, and acclimation of steelhead smolts at Sawtooth Fish Hatchery prior to release.

Draft assessments were submitted to LSRCP staff by December 29, 1992 and final assessments were submitted January 28, 1993. I also assisted LSRCP staff with assessment of cumulative effects of the LSRCP program. Consultation between NMFS and the USFWS began in early February 1993 and continued through mid-April. During this time period, I submitted additional information and clarification for the consultation package. Consultation culminated on April 2 with an Incidental Take Statement that authorized the release of all Idaho LSRCP-produced hatchery chinook salmon and steelhead, as proposed by IDFG and the USFWS.

In September, 1993, I began review of the 1993 biological assessments to prepare for the 1994-98 Section 7 consultation. This activity continued into the next contract period.

## Objective 2

All three tasks were completed from February through April, 1993. During consultation, I acted as liaison between the USFWS and IDFG. I represented IDFG in policy and technical matters regarding the LSRCP program in a formal consultation meeting with NMFS, the USFWS, and the LSRCP cooperators. I presented progress of the consultation to IDFG and various policy-makers and the public, particularly as concern increased about the lateness of NMFS authorization for salmon and steelhead releases. Special terms and conditions and conservation recommendations were communicated to IDFG policy and technical personnel to ensure our actions were consistent with authorization received by the USFWS for the LSRCP program.

## Objective 3

Both of the tasks associated with objective 3 were completed February through July 1993. I developed and submitted three Section 10 direct take permits for broodstock collection and artificial propagation at McCall Fish Hatchery and South Fork Salmon River Satellite Facility, Sawtooth Fish Hatchery, and East Fork Satellite Facility. Applications were submitted March 30 through April 14; copies were provided to LSRCP staff. The applications required considerable technical development and discussion with HES, hatchery O&M, and other IDFG staff. During the period May through mid-July, I responded to considerable comments from NMFS reviewers and provided additional information as requested by NMFS. I acted as liaison between NMFS and IDFG regarding pre-permit discussion of conservation requirements.

We received Section 10 permits from NMFS for LSRCP hatcheries on July 14, 1993. Authorization was considerably different than our proposals, resulting in changes to our management programs. A considerable number of unmarked hatchery chinook could not be utilized for broodstock in 1993 because of NMFS restrictions on uses of unmarked chinook. Marking of all hatchery chinook, beginning with broodyear 1991 production, should ameliorate this restriction in the future.

I submitted monthly broodstock and run reports from July through September for Sawtooth and McCall Fish Hatcheries and the East Fork and South Fork Salmon River satellite facilities. NMFS requested these reports to gain status information about the chinook runs, mark proportions, and egg take.

#### Objective 4

Throughout the contract period, all tasks were addressed. LSRCP-funded actions such as chinook broodstock collection and steelhead releases were integrated into our ESA management strategy. I participated in our 1994-95 fish regulation review to ensure consistency between ESA, IDFG programs, and LSRCP-funded programs. I assisted with the IDFG response to the draft Sockeye Recommendations from the Snake River Salmon Recovery Team and I represented IDFG at recovery meetings in May. I presented ESA information at the IDFG research and anadromous meetings, and briefed new anadromous regional biologists during IDFG redd count training.

Several information and education efforts were completed during the contract period. I assisted with review of a threatened and endangered species pamphlet, developed press material for the August 1993 release of sockeye into Redfish Lake, developed a fact sheet about ESA actions in the Stanley Basin, and wrote various press releases related to LSRCP hatchery fish releases and Section 10 permits. I wrote an article for Idaho Wildlife about the authorization process of the ESA (Kiefer 1993) and I spoke with groups at the Morrison-Knudson Nature Center and at Centennial High School. Since the listings, there has been a substantial increase in requests for salmon information from publics representing grade schoolers to book publishers; I responded weekly to calls for salmon information.

#### Objective 5

I did not attend the LSRCP Evaluation study coordinators meeting during the contract period (Task 5.3) and did not participate in computer training (Task 5.4) but all other tasks were addressed. I assisted several projects with field activities that had been authorized by Section 10 permits. I observed adult chinook collection at Sawtooth and South Fork of the Salmon River weirs to help me with development of future permit applications for weir operation. I also attended the national American Fisheries Society meeting in Portland, which had a considerable Columbia River salmon agenda. I used this opportunity to meet with NMFS personnel from the Maryland office.

I assisted with interpretation of the two pertinent Federal Register notices issued during the contract period for IDFG staff and Department response: Proposed rule for Designated Critical Habitat; Snake River Sockeye Salmon, Snake River Spring/summer Chinook Salmon, and Snake River Fall Chinook Salmon, published December, 1992; and the Interim Policy on Artificial Propagation of Pacific Salmon Under the Endangered Species Act published April, 1993. I drafted the IDFG response for the latter. There were two other findings by NMFS that affected IDFG fish management. I worked with IDFG staff on regulation changes to accommodate the

NMFS finding that residual sockeye were included in the listed Snake River sockeye ESU in March, 1993. After a September, 1993 meeting with NMFS that identified that broodyear 1992 hatchery chinook at many LSRCP hatcheries were listed, I assisted IDFG staff with interpretation of this ruling and management revisions to incorporate it.

### Related Activities

There were several activities completed during the contract period that were affiliated with Objectives 1 and 3. Because the LSRCP program is an integral component of Idaho's anadromous fish management program, it is crucial to ensure consistency between ESA, the LSRCP Section 7 consultation and related Section 10 permits, and all other Idaho fish management actions affecting listed salmon. To accomplish integration and coordination, Objective 3 was completed for the following permit applications: 1) Salmon research application, submitted December, 1992; 2) State authorized sport fishing season and regulations application, submitted February, 1993; Idaho Power Company anadromous mitigation program application, submitted February, 1993; Resident Fish Stocking application, submitted March, 1993; Sockeye Captive Broodstock modification application, submitted April, 1993. Objective 1 was completed for three IDFG-affiliated consultations that were not completed during the contract period: Steelhead supplementation; Wilderness steelhead studies; and Sockeye predator research.

#### **LITERATURE CITED**

- Cannamela, D.A. and G. Kruse-Malle. 1993. Fish hatchery evaluations - Idaho. USFWS-LSRCP contract No. 14-16-0001-91505 (October 1, 1990 to September 30, 1991). Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Boise, ID. 105 pp.
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## **APPENDIX**



## **Appendix A**

ESA Coordination Statement of Work.

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## **APPENDIX**



## **Appendix A**

ESA Coordination Statement of Work.

## STATEMENT OF WORK

### I. Objectives

#### A. General

The recent listing of Snake River sockeye as endangered and fall and spring/summer chinook as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires that LSRCP-funded hatchery and evaluation studies programs not jeopardize the existence or recovery natural populations. Therefore, all future actions of these programs must be evaluated to ensure that their effects on listed species are neutral, minimal, or enhance their continuing existence. The LSRCP programs have the potential not only to provide scientific information that could be useful in recovering the listed species but also to increase naturally reproducing populations through artificial reproduction. For example, the Idaho Supplementation Study (ISS), a BPA-funded research study, is designed to test whether LSRCP hatcheries can be used to successfully supplement naturally reproducing populations. The ESA coordination effort described in this SOW will work in concert with IDFG's LSRCP Hatchery Operations and Maintenance Program (O&M), Hatchery Evaluation Study (HES), the Harvest Monitoring Project (HMP), and the Coded Wire Tag Laboratory Program to meet the obligations and legal requirements of the ESA. Additionally, actions of all Idaho salmon programs, including those outside the authority of LSRCP, will need to be consistently integrated to ensure adverse effects on listed species are avoided.

#### B. Specific

1. Assess LSRCP hatchery and evaluation actions to determine potential effects on listed species.
2. Represent IDFG during formal consultation between NMFS and the FWS.
3. Analyze, update, modify, and submit new Section 10 scientific and enhancement direct take permits as needed.
4. Coordinate and integrate Idaho's anadromous fish management and research with the Section 7 LSRCP biological assessment and subsequent biological opinion and the Section 10 scientific/enhancement permits.
5. Complete other duties as assigned so that LSRCP and IDFG programs and professional efficiency are enhanced.

### II. Tasks

The State of Idaho, Department of Fish and Game shall furnish all supervision, labor, services, materials, tools and equipment necessary to develop ESA permits and ensure that actions implemented by the Department of Fish and Game are consistent and permitted pursuant to Section 7 biological consultation and Section 10 research and enhancement permits. These tasks will be conducted to fulfill the objectives cited above as follows:

**A. Objective 1: Assess LSRCP hatchery and evaluation actions to determine potential effects on listed species.**

Approach:

The ESA coordinator, working with Idaho's O&M, HES, HMP, and other Department and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) biologists and managers, will consolidate hatchery and evaluation study program data and use it and relevant literature to analyze and assess the effects of various LSRCP-funded hatchery operations and evaluations on listed salmon species. As the Section 7 biological assessment material is developed, alternatives may have to be developed to limit the effects of hatchery operations and evaluations on the listed species.

- Task 1.1 Obtain quantitative data necessary to evaluate LSRCP-funded programs.
- Task 1. Coordinate and assist IDFG and FWS-LSRCP research staff with quantitative analyses for the biological assessment.
- Task 1.3 Assess effects of all proposed actions and estimate indirect take of listed species using Task 1.2 results and relevant literature.
- Task 1.4 Where necessary, help develop and assess alternatives which will reduce the adverse impacts on listed species.
- Task 1.5 Draft program descriptions, analyses of effects, assessment of effects following the outline biological assessment outline provided by the LSRCP office.
- Task 1.6 Coordinate technical and policy review of Section 7 materials by IDFG staff.
- Task 1.7 Participate with the LSRCP ESA work group for technical analysis and biological assessment development.
- Task 1.E Assist LSRCP staff with assessment of cumulative effects.
- Task 1.9 Assist LSRCP staff with submission of the final Section 7 biological assessment.

**B. Objective 2: Represent IDFG during formal consultation between NMFS and the FWS.**

Approach:

IDFG, as a LSRCP cooperator, must be involved in the FWS/NMFS consultations for the LSRCP Program under the ESA. During the consultation period, which will begin in November, the LSRCP Office will involve all cooperators in ongoing discussions with NMFS regarding their programs.

- Task 2.1      Act as the liaison between the FWS and IDFG during the formal consultation period to fulfill the cooperator's role in the process.
- Task 2.2      Provide additional documentation, as requested, for the LSRCP Section 7 formal consultation between NMFS and the FWS-LSRCP office.
- Task 2.3      Represent IDFG during formal consultation meetings.

**C. Objective 3: Analyze, update, modify, and submit new Section 10 scientific and enhancement direct take permits as needed.**

The ESA coordinator, working with Idaho's O&M, HES, HMP, and other Department and FWS biologists and managers, will consolidate hatchery and evaluation study program data and use it and relevant literature to update and modify, as per NMFS requests, Section 10 applications for various LSRCP-funded hatchery operations and evaluations which involve direct taking of listed salmon species. The ESA coordinator will help the FWS LSRCP office ensure that the Section 7 biological assessment and Section 10 permit applications are coordinated with one another.

- Task 3.1      Develop, in cooperation with the LSRCP office, additional justification and rationale for directed take of listed species to demonstrate the benefit to the species and provide it to the NMFS permitting and the LSRCP offices.
- Task 3.2      Respond to NMFS requests for any additional information or new permits in the same manner as prescribed in Task 3.1.

**D. Objective 4: Coordinate and integrate Idaho's anadromous fish management and research with the Section 7 LSRCP biological assessment and subsequent biological opinion and the Section 10 scientific/enhancement permits.**

- Task 4.1      Determine and recommend changes in Idaho fish management plans resulting from LSRCP program biological consultations between NMFS and FWS.
- Task 4.2      Provide parameters of Section 10 research and enhancement permits to IDFG personnel who will implement the actions to ensure that all LSRCP-funded actions **are** permitted and consistent with permit requirements.
- Task 4.5      Integrate appropriate LSRCP-funded actions described in biological assessments and biological opinions into an IDFG's salmon recovery strategy.

- Task 4.6 Represent IDFG's LSRCP activities to the IDFG Columbia River Coordinator, and the Governor's/Attorney General's offices, as requested.
- Task 4.7 Assist IDFG's Bureau of I and E staff with development of public literature relevant to ESA and the LSRCP chinook salmon program in Idaho.
- Task 4.8 Develop IDFG responses to the draft NMFS chinook recovery plan.
- Task 4.10 Represent IDFG on LSRCP program chinook salmon issues with public, legislature, and organized groups.
- Task 4.11 Provide staff support to the IDFG anadromous program.
- Task 4.12 Represent IDFG regarding LSRCP activities to the Salmon Recovery Team, as requested.

**E. Objective 5: Complete other duties as assigned so that LSRCP and IDFG programs and professional efficiency are enhanced.**

- Task 5.1 Maintain updated knowledge of latest ESA rules and regulations, including NMFS policies and guidelines for implementing ESA.
- Task 5.2 Attend IDFG anadromous and research section meetings, as requested.
- Task 5.3 Attend LSRCP Evaluation study coordinators meeting, as requested.
- Task 5.4 Attend other employee training sessions approved or assigned, with emphasis on improvement of computer skills.
- Task 5.5 Spend one day assisting with chinook salmon redd counts.
- Task 5.6 Spend two days assisting with an anadromous fish research project and/or hatchery operations.
- Task 5.7 Spend up to 4 days on IDFG training and assistance activities.

III. Schedule

<u>Task</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Activity</u>
1.1	Oct 11 - Nov 15	Data collection
1.2	Oct 11 - Nov 15	Data analyses
1.3	Oct 11 - Dec 15	Data assessment
1.4/1.5	Nov 15 - Dec 15	Reassessments/drafting
1.6/1.7	Dec 15 - Jan 15	Coordinate review
1.8	Nov 15 - Jan 15	Cumulative analysis/review
1.9	Dec 15 - Jan 31	Develop final assessment

2.1/2.3	Jan 31 - Mar 15	Consultation
3.1/3.2	Oct 11 - Jan 31	Section 10 permit applications
4.1/4.12	Ongoing	Coordination within IDFG
5.1/5.4	Ongoing	Meeting, training
5.5/5.6	Aug/Sep	Redd counts
5.7	Intermittent	Miscellaneous


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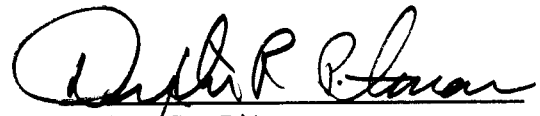
Submitted by:

Sharon W. Kiefer  
Fishery Staff Biologist

Approved by:

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

  
Steven M. Huffaker, Chief  
Fisheries Bureau

  
Dexter R. Pitman  
Anadromous Fishery Manager